

Appl. No.: 10/624,239
Amdt. Dated: July 23, 2004
Reply of Office action of April 23, 2004

Docket No. CONN-9503

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-20 are currently pending in the application. Applicant has amended claims 1-7, 9-18, and 20. Applicant requests reconsideration of the application in light of the following remarks.

Objections to Claims

The Examiner has objected to claims 1-5 and 9-16 for informalities (i.e., using “a” or “an” instead of “the”). Applicant has amended the claims as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant respectfully requests that the objections to claims 1-5 and 9-16 be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal Brothers v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the claim. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Claim 5

Claim 5 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Saunders (4,563,821). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration of the claims since Saunders does not expressly or inherently describe the amended claim in as complete detail as is contained therein.

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Applicant claims in independent claim 5 “a two-piece interfacing clip comprising:
a first side piece comprising:
 a first internal face;
 a first power cable channel in the first internal face; and
 a first tether channel in the first internal face; and
a separate opposing second side piece comprising:
 an opposing second internal face;
 an opposing second power cable channel in the second internal face; and
 an opposing second tether channel in the second internal face . . .” (emphasis added).

Saunders, however, does not teach a “two-piece interfacing clip” as claimed by Applicant with separate/distinct side pieces. Instead, Saunders teaches “cable clip 30 [consisting of] a bilaterally symmetrical sheet-like web 200 having a central body portion 204 and a pair of in-line, laterally extending arms 208 and 210. The arms 208 and 210 are half-round in cross section with flattened faces presented upwardly. A vertical center line zone 214 of the web 200 is preformed to define a groove-like channel 218 for receiving and grippingly engage a cable segment 222 when the web 200 is folded upon itself around to embrace the cable segment 222 . . .” (col. 6, lines 49-60). Thus, Saunders teaches a one-piece (not a two-piece) cable clip having in-line, laterally extending solid arms to which rubber tubing is inserted over (not tether channels/grooves in internal faces of separate side pieces in which a tether is removably received and retained therein). Saunders does not disclose separate power cable channels in internal faces of separate side pieces either.

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Accordingly, Saunders does not anticipate Applicant's claimed invention because Miyazaki does not teach a two-piece interfacing clip having tether channels in the internal faces of the separate side pieces. Applicant respectfully requests that the anticipation rejection of claim 5 be withdrawn.

Claims 11 and 13

Claims 11 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Wilson (5,996,569). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration of the claims since Wilson does not expressly or inherently describe the amended claims in as complete detail as is contained therein.

Applicant claims in independent claim 11 "a solid, thermoplastic elastomer tether having opposing first and second end portions, the first end portion comprising at least one integral, protruding retaining member" (emphasis added).

Wilson, however, does not teach a "thermoplastic elastomer tether" having a "first end portion comprising at least one integral, protruding retaining member" as claimed by Applicant. Instead, Wilson is silent as to any features of its cord other than teaching that its cord is an elastic cord that is attached between a bow mount and a hole in an alignment arm (*see* col. 4, lines 21-23).

Accordingly, Wilson does not anticipate Applicant's claimed invention because Wilson does not teach a "thermoplastic elastomer tether" having a "first end portion comprising at least one integral, protruding retaining member". Applicant respectfully requests that the anticipation rejection of claim 11 be withdrawn.

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As for claim 13, since it depends from and includes all the limitations of amended independent claim 11, claim 13 is also patentably distinct and allowable over Wilson for, among other reasons, that dependence from an allowable claim.

Notwithstanding, for example, amended claim 13 is also independently patentably distinct and allowable over Wilson. Claim 13 claims a peep sight comprising a “sight body having a thickness extending between a front face and rear face”, “a sight aperture and the tether-securing aperture each extending from the front face to the rear face through the thickness of the sight body”, and “the tether-securing aperture removably receiving and retaining the first end portion of the tether substantially within the sight body”.

Wilson does not disclose these claimed features. Instead, Wilson discloses, as FIGS. 2A and 5A make clear, a hole to which a cord is attached located in an alignment arm protruding outwardly from a mounting member. Thus, Wilson teaches a hole in an alignment arm that is transversely oriented with respect to a sight portion in a mounting member (not a sight aperture and the tether-securing aperture each extending from the front face to the rear face of a sight body through the thickness of the sight body).

Applicant respectfully requests that the anticipation rejection of claim 13 be withdrawn.

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Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness under 35 U.S.C. §103, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the cited prior art reference must teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. Furthermore, the suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based upon the Applicants' disclosure. A failure to meet any one of these criteria is a failure to establish a prima facie case of obviousness. *MPEP* §2143.

Claim 1

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cranston (6,131,295), in view of Beutler (5,148,603). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration of the claims.

Applicant claims in independent claim 1 a peep sight comprising a “sight body having a thickness extending between a front face and rear face” and “a sight aperture and the tether-securing aperture each extending from the front face to the rear face through the thickness of the sight body” (emphasis added).

In contrast, as the Examiner states, Cranston does not disclose a tether securing aperture, let alone a tether-securing aperture through a sight body. Cranston teaches only a tube 54 which fits over a projection 78 (*see* col. 4, lines 36-41). Beutler discloses only that

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“the rear peep 14 has a generally oval-shaped solid body 17 including generally parallel planer front surface 18 and rear surface 19. The surfaces 18 and 19 are connected by a curved side surface 20 extending completely around the body 17 . . .” (*see* col. 3, lines 33-38). “The body 17 also has a cavity 25 formed at an upper portion of the side surface 20” (col. 3, lines 57-58).

First, even if the sight of Cranston were modified to include the cavity of Beutler, there would be no reasonable expectation of success. The hollow tube of Cranston needs a projection to attach over, and would not be able to attach over a cavity. Furthermore, a cavity is not the same as a through aperture.

Second, even if it was proper to modify Cranston in view of Beutler, the combination still does not teach a “sight body having a thickness extending between a front face and rear face” and “a sight aperture and the tether-securing aperture each extending from the front face to the rear face through the thickness of the sight body” (emphasis added), as required by independent claim 1. If the sight of Cranston were modified to include the cavity of Beutler, the cavity would be formed in the top of the sight in the thickness, not extending from the front face to the rear face of the sight body through the thickness of the sight body.

Thus, focusing on Applicant’s claimed invention in claim 1 as a whole, it is clear that Applicant’s claimed invention is more than just a trivial step forward in the art, but is a bona fide, nonobvious technical accomplishment or advance in the art. Without the benefit of Applicant’s disclosure, the foregoing specific combination of features claimed by Applicant in independent claim 1 would not be known.

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Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejections of claim 1 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-4

Claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cranston (6,131,295), in view of Beutler (5,148,603) and further in view of Morris et al (5,379,747) and Saunders (4,563,821). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration of the claims.

It is pointed out that for all of the reasons set forth above in response to the rejections of claims 1 and 5, which reasons are hereby incorporated herein by reference, claims 2-4 are patentably distinct and allowable. That is, as claims 2-4 depend from and include all the limitations of amended independent claim 1, claims 2-4 are also patentably distinct and allowable over Cranston in view of Beutler and further in view of Morris and Saunders for, among other reasons, that dependence from an allowable claim.

Notwithstanding, amended claims 2-4 are also independently patentably distinct and allowable over Cranston in view of Beutler and further in view of Morris and Saunders.

Claim 2 claims “a serving channel girdling the sight body substantially at the midpoint of its thickness” and “a serving hole extending through the width of the sight body connecting opposing serving channel portions”. Cranston in view of Beutler and further in view of Morris do not disclose these claimed features. Instead, Morris discloses “grooves or

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channels 42 and 42a formed generally vertically in the opposite faces of the lower portions 16 and 16a of sights 10 and 10a, between the securing passages 40 and 40a and continuing across the truncated lower edge 44/44a of the sights 10/10a” (emphasis added) (col. 7, lines 16-21). Thus, Morris teaches securing passages through the thickness of the sight body and channels in the opposite faces of the sight body, not a serving hole extending through the width of the sight body connecting opposing serving channel portions of a serving channel girdling the sight body substantially at the midpoint of its thickness.

Applicant claims in claim 3 “a two-piece interfacing clip comprising:

a first side piece comprising:

a first internal face;

a first power cable channel in the first internal face; and

a first tether channel in the first internal face; and

a separate opposing second side piece comprising:

an opposing second internal face;

an opposing second power cable channel in the second internal face; and

an opposing second tether channel in the second internal face . . .” (emphasis added).

Cranston in view of Beutler and further in view of Saunders do not disclose these claimed features. Instead, Saunders teaches “cable clip 30 [consisting of] a bilaterally symmetrical sheet-like web 200 having a central body portion 204 and a pair of in-line, laterally extending arms 208 and 210. The arms 208 and 210 are half-round in cross section with flattened faces presented upwardly. A vertical center line zone 214 of the web 200 is preformed to define a groove-like channel 218 for receiving and grippingly engage a cable

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segment 222 when the web 200 is folded upon itself around to embrace the cable segment 222 . . .” (col. 6, lines 49-60). Thus, Saunders teaches a one-piece (not a two-piece) cable clip having in-line, laterally extending solid arms to which rubber tubing is inserted over (not tether channels/grooves in internal faces of separate side pieces in which a tether is removably received and retained therein). Saunders does not disclose separate power cable channels in internal faces of separate side pieces either.

Applicant claims in claim 4 a “tether having opposing first and second end portions, the first end portion comprising at least one integral, protruding retaining member” (emphasis added). Cranston in view of Beutler do not disclose these claimed features. They are silent as to the features of their tethers.

Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejections of claims 2-4 be withdrawn.

Claims 6-8 and 10

Claims 6-8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Saunders (4,563,821), in view of Troncoso (4,656,747) and Spack (3,071,127). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration of the claims.

It is pointed out that for all of the reasons set forth above in response to the rejections of claim 5, which reasons are hereby incorporated herein by reference, claims 6-8 and 10 are patentably distinct and allowable. That is, as claims 6-8 and 10 depend from and include all the limitations of amended independent claim 5, claims 6-8 and 10 are also patentably

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distinct and allowable over Saunders in view of Troncoso and Spack for, among other reasons, that dependence from an allowable claim.

Notwithstanding, amended claims 6-8 and 10 are also independently patentably distinct and allowable over Saunders in view of Troncoso and Spack.

Claim 6 claims that “the first side piece of the interfacing clip further comprises a first securing aperture in the first internal face and an alignment shaft protruding from the first internal face, and wherein the second side piece of the interfacing clip further comprises a second securing aperture in the second internal face and an alignment recess in the second internal face” (emphasis added). Saunders in view of Troncoso do not disclose these claimed features. Troncoso teaches a peep sight, not an interfacing clip, consisting of “a pair of spaced rearwardly extending tubular studs 50” that “are connected to front plate 26d and press-fittable into mating openings 52 in rear plate 28d of body 22” (col. 4, lines 5-8). Thus Troncoso teaches only a pair of studs and a pair of corresponding, mating openings for the studs, not a securing aperture and an alignment shaft in a first side piece of an interfacing clip and a securing aperture and an alignment recess in a second side piece of an interfacing clip.

Claim 7 claims opposing tether channels that each comprise “at least one integral, protruding tether retaining rib crosswise therein” (emphasis added). Saunders in view of Spack do not disclose these claimed features. Spack teaches a hole 32 as the Examiner states, but this hole is not a rib, let alone an integral, protruding tether retaining rib crosswise in the tether channels themselves.

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Claim 10 claims a “tether having opposing first and second end portions, the first end portion comprising at least one integral, protruding retaining member” (emphasis added). Saunders in view of Troncoso and Spack do not disclose an integral, protruding retaining member at the first end portion of the tether.

Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejections of claims 6-8 and 10 be withdrawn.

Claims 5 and 9

Claims 5 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cranston (6,131,295), in view of Saunders (4,563,821). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration of the claims.

It is pointed out that for all of the reasons set forth above in response to the anticipation rejection of claim 5, which reasons are hereby incorporated herein by reference, claim 5 is patentably distinct and allowable over Cranston in view of Saunders. Furthermore, as claim 9 depends from and includes all the limitations of amended independent claim 5, claim 9 is also patentably distinct and allowable over Cranston in view of Saunders for, among other reasons, that dependence from an allowable claim.

Notwithstanding, amended claim 9 is also independently patentably distinct and allowable over Cranston in view of Saunders. Claim 9 claims a peep sight comprising a “sight body having a thickness extending between a front face and rear face” and “a sight aperture and the tether-securing aperture each extending from the front face to the rear face through the thickness of the sight body” (emphasis added). In contrast, neither Cranston nor

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Saunders disclose a tether securing aperture, let alone a tether-securing aperture through a sight body.

Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejections of claims 5 and 9 be withdrawn.

Claims 6-8 and 10

Claims 6-8 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cranston (6,131,295), in view of Saunders (4,563,821) as applied to claims 5 and 9, in further view of Troncoso (4,656,747) and Spack (3,071,127). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration of the claims.

It is pointed out that for all of the reasons set forth above in response to the rejections of claim 5, which reasons are hereby incorporated herein by reference, claims 6-8 and 10 are patentably distinct and allowable. That is, as claims 6-8 and 10 depend from and include all the limitations of amended independent claim 5, claims 6-8 and 10 are also patentably distinct and allowable over Cranston in view of Saunders and in further view of Troncoso and Spack for, among other reasons, that dependence from an allowable claim.

Notwithstanding, amended claims 6-8 and 10 are also independently patentably distinct and allowable over Cranston in view of Saunders and in further view of Troncoso and Spack.

Claim 6 claims that “the first side piece of the interfacing clip further comprises a first securing aperture in the first internal face and an alignment shaft protruding from the first

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internal face, and wherein the second side piece of the interfacing clip further comprises a second securing aperture in the second internal face and an alignment recess in the second internal face” (emphasis added). Cranston and Saunders in view of Troncoso do not disclose these claimed features. Troncoso teaches a peep sight, not an interfacing clip, consisting of “a pair of spaced rearwardly extending tubular studs 50” that “are connected to front plate 26d and press-fittable into mating openings 52 in rear plate 28d of body 22” (col. 4, lines 5-8). Thus Troncoso teaches only a pair of studs and a pair of corresponding, mating openings for the studs, not a securing aperture and an alignment shaft in a first side piece of an interfacing clip and a securing aperture and an alignment recess in a second side piece of an interfacing clip.

Claim 7 claims opposing tether channels that each comprise “at least one integral, protruding tether retaining rib crosswise therein” (emphasis added). Cranston and Saunders in view of Spack do not disclose these claimed features. Spack teaches a hole 32 as the Examiner states, but this hole is not a rib, let alone an integral, protruding tether retaining rib crosswise in the tether channels themselves.

Claim 10 claims a “tether having opposing first and second end portions, the first end portion comprising at least one integral, protruding retaining member” (emphasis added). Cranston and Saunders in view of Troncoso and Spack do not disclose an integral, protruding retaining member at the first end portion of the tether.

Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejections of claims 6-8 and 10 be withdrawn.

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Claims 11 and 13-14

Claims 11 and 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cranston (6,131,295), in view of Beutler (5,148,603) and Saunders (4,563,821). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration of the claims.

Applicant claims in independent claim 11 “a solid, thermoplastic elastomer tether having opposing first and second end portions, the first end portion comprising at least one integral, protruding retaining member” (emphasis added). However, Cranston, Beutler, and/or Saunders do not teach a “thermoplastic elastomer tether” having a “first end portion comprising at least one integral, protruding retaining member” as claimed by Applicant.

As for claims 13-14, since they depend from and includes all the limitations of amended independent claim 11, claims 13-14 are also patentably distinct and allowable over Cranston, Beutler, and/or Saunders for, among other reasons, that dependence from an allowable claim.

Notwithstanding, amended claims 13-14 are also independently patentably distinct and allowable over Cranston, Beutler, and/or Saunders.

Claim 13 claims a peep sight comprising a “sight body having a thickness extending between a front face and rear face”, “a sight aperture and the tether-securing aperture each extending from the front face to the rear face through the thickness of the sight body”, and “the tether-securing aperture removably receiving and retaining the first end portion of the tether substantially within the sight body”.

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In contrast, as the Examiner states, Cranston does not disclose a tether securing aperture, let alone a tether-securing aperture through a sight body. Cranston teaches only a tube 54 which fits over a projection 78 (*see* col. 4, lines 36-41). Beutler discloses only that “the rear peep 14 has a generally oval-shaped solid body 17 including generally parallel planer front surface 18 and rear surface 19. The surfaces 18 and 19 are connected by a curved side surface 20 extending completely around the body 17 . . .” (*see* col. 3, lines 33-38). “The body 17 also has a cavity 25 formed at an upper portion of the side surface 20” (col. 3, lines 57-58).

First, even if the sight of Cranston were modified to include the cavity of Beutler, there would be no reasonable expectation of success. The hollow tube of Cranston needs a projection to attach over, and would not be able to attach over a cavity. Furthermore, a cavity is not the same as a through aperture.

Second, even if it was proper to modify Cranston in view of Beutler, the combination still does not teach a “sight body having a thickness extending between a front face and rear face” and “a sight aperture and the tether-securing aperture each extending from the front face to the rear face through the thickness of the sight body” (emphasis added), as required by claim 13. If the sight of Cranston were modified to include the cavity of Beutler, the cavity would be formed in the top of the sight in the thickness, not extending from the front face to the rear face of the sight body through the thickness of the sight body.

Applicant claims in claim 14 “a two-piece interfacing clip comprising:
a first side piece comprising:
a first internal face;
a first power cable channel in the first internal face; and

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a first tether channel in the first internal face; and
a separate opposing second side piece comprising:
an opposing second internal face;
an opposing second power cable channel in the second internal face; and
an opposing second tether channel in the second internal face;
. . . the opposing first and second tether channels removably receiving and retaining
therein the second end portion of the tether” (emphasis added).

In contrast, Saunders, however, does not teach a “two-piece interfacing clip” as claimed by Applicant with separate/distinct side pieces. Instead, Saunders teaches “cable clip 30 [consisting of] a bilaterally symmetrical sheet-like web 200 having a central body portion 204 and a pair of in-line, laterally extending arms 208 and 210. The arms 208 and 210 are half-round in cross section with flattened faces presented upwardly. A vertical center line zone 214 of the web 200 is preformed to define a groove-like channel 218 for receiving and grippingly engage a cable segment 222 when the web 200 is folded upon itself around to embrace the cable segment 222 . . .” (col. 6, lines 49-60). Thus, Saunders teaches a one-piece (not a two-piece) cable clip having in-line, laterally extending solid arms to which rubber tubing is inserted over (not tether channels/grooves in internal faces of separate side pieces in which a tether is removably received and retained therein). Saunders does not disclose separate power cable channels in internal faces of separate side pieces either.

Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejections of claims 11 and 13-14 be withdrawn.

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Claim 12

Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cranston (6,131,295), in view of Beutler (5,148,603) and Saunders (4,563,821), as applied to claims 11 and 13-14 and in further view of Spack (3,071,127). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration of the claims.

It is pointed out that for all of the reasons set forth above in response to the rejections of claim 11, which reasons are hereby incorporated herein by reference, claim 11 is patentably distinct and allowable. Since claim 12 depends from and include all the limitations of amended independent claim 11, claim 12 is also patentably distinct and allowable over Cranston in view of Beutler and Saunders and in further view of Spack for, among other reasons, that dependence from an allowable claim.

Notwithstanding, amended claim 12 is also independently patentably distinct and allowable over Cranston in view of Beutler and Saunders and in further view of Spack.

Claim 12 claims “a first integral, protruding retaining member and a second integral, protruding retaining member separated by an integral, circumferential, curvilinear recess” (emphasis added). In contrast, Spack discloses a single, flat, rubber line or strand that is tied over itself to form knots. Thus, the knots are not integral. Furthermore, the space between knots consists of only a portion of the flat, rubber line or strand, not any sort of recess in the rubber line, let alone an integral recess, let alone a circumferential recess, and let alone a curvilinear recess.

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Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejections of claim 12 be withdrawn.

Claims 15 and 19

Claims 15 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cranston (6,131,295), in view of Beutler (5,148,603) and Saunders (4,563,821). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration of the claims.

It is pointed out that independent claim 15 includes similar claim features as the combination of claim features set forth in amended independent claims 1, 5, and 11 as discussed previously. Accordingly for all of the reasons set forth above in response to the rejections of claims 1, 5, and 11, which reasons are hereby incorporated herein by reference, claim 15 is patentably distinct and allowable over Cranston in view of Beutler and Saunders. Furthermore, as claim 19 depends from and includes all the limitations of amended independent claim 15, claim 19 is also patentably distinct and allowable over Cranston in view of Beutler and Saunders for, among other reasons, that dependence from an allowable claim.

Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejections of claims 15-19 be withdrawn.

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Claims 16-18 and 20

Claims 16-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cranston (6,131,295), in view of Beutler (5,148,603) and Saunders (4,563,821) as applied to claims 15 and 19 and in further view of Morris et al (5,379,747), Troncoso(4,656,747) and Spack (3,071,127) . Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and request reconsideration of the claims

It is pointed out that for all of the reasons set forth above in response to the rejections of claims 15, which reasons are hereby incorporated herein by reference, claim 15 is patentably distinct and allowable over Cranston in view of Beutler and Saunders and in further view of Morris, Troncoso, and Spack. Furthermore, as claims 16-18 and 20 depend from and include all the limitations of amended independent claim 15, claims 16-18 and 20 are also patentably distinct and allowable over Cranston in view of Beutler and Saunders and in further view of Morris, Troncoso, and Spack for, among other reasons, that dependence from an allowable claim.

Notwithstanding, amended claims 16-18 and 20 are also independently patentably distinct and allowable over Cranston in view of Beutler and Saunders and in further view of Morris, Troncoso.

Claim 16 claims “a serving channel girdling the sight body substantially at the midpoint of its thickness” and “a serving hole extending through the width of the sight body connecting opposing serving channel portions”. Cranston in view of Beutler and Saunders and further in view of Morris do not disclose these claimed features. Instead, Morris discloses “grooves or channels 42 and 42a formed generally vertically in the opposite faces

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of the lower portions 16 and 16a of sights 10 and 10a, between the securing passages 40 and 40a and continuing across the truncated lower edge 44/44a of the sights 10/10a” (emphasis added) (col. 7, lines 16-21). Thus, Morris teaches securing passages through the thickness of the sight body and channels in the opposite faces of the sight body, not a serving hole extending through the width of the sight body connecting opposing serving channel portions of a serving channel girdling the sight body substantially at the midpoint of its thickness.

Claim 17 claims that “the first side piece of the interfacing clip further comprises a first securing aperture in the first internal face and an alignment shaft protruding from the first internal face, and wherein the second side piece of the interfacing clip further comprises a second securing aperture in the second internal face and an alignment recess in the second internal face” (emphasis added). Cranston in view of Beutler and Saunders and further in view of Troncoso do not disclose these claimed features. Troncoso teaches a peep sight, not an interfacing clip, consisting of “a pair of spaced rearwardly extending tubular studs 50” that “are connected to front plate 26d and press-fittable into mating openings 52 in rear plate 28d of body 22” (col. 4, lines 5-8). Thus, Troncoso teaches only a pair of studs and a pair of corresponding, mating openings for the studs, not a securing aperture and an alignment shaft in a first side piece of an interfacing clip and a securing aperture and an alignment recess in a second side piece of an interfacing clip.

Claim 18 claims opposing tether channels that each comprise “at least one integral, protruding tether retaining rib crosswise therein” (emphasis added). Cranston in view of Beutler and Saunders and further in view of Spack do not disclose these claimed features. Spack teaches a hole 32 as the Examiner states, but this hole is not a rib, let alone an integral, protruding tether retaining rib crosswise in the tether channels themselves.

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Claim 20 claims “a first integral, protruding retaining member and a second integral, protruding retaining member separated by an integral, circumferential, curvilinear recess” (emphasis added). Cranston in view of Beutler and Saunders and further in view of Spack do not disclose these claimed features. In contrast, Spack discloses a single, flat, rubber line or strand that is tied over itself to form knots. Thus, the knots are not integral. Furthermore, the space between knots consists of only a portion of the flat, rubber line or strand, not any sort of recess in the rubber line, let alone an integral recess, let alone a circumferential recess, and let alone a curvilinear recess.

Applicant respectfully requests that the obviousness rejections of claims 16-18 and 20 be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In summary, and in view of the amendments herein, none of the references cited by the Examiner or any other known prior art, either alone or in combination, disclose the unique combination of features disclosed in applicant’s claims presently on file. For this reason, allowance of all of applicant’s claims is respectfully solicited.

Applicants hereby declare that any amendments herein that are not specifically made for the purpose of patentability are made for other purposes, such as clarification, and that no such changes shall be construed as limiting the scope of the claims or the application of the Doctrine of Equivalents.

If any fees, including extension of time fees or additional claims fees, are due as a result of this response, please charge Deposit Account No. 19-0513. This authorization is

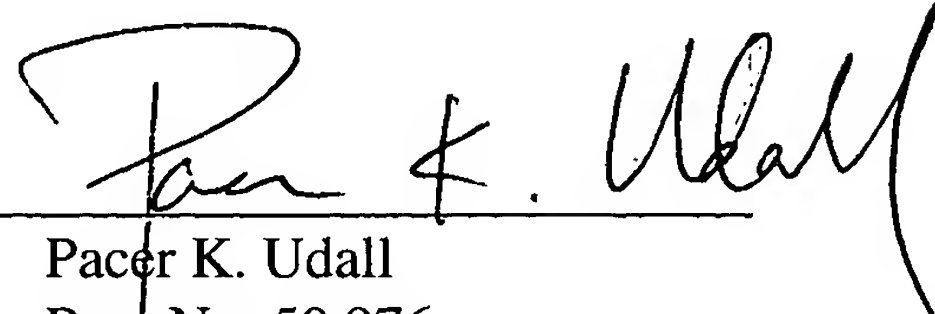
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intended to act as a constructive petition for an extension of time, should an extension of time be needed as a result of this response. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would in any way advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: July 23, 2004

By: 
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